Setting up of globe panel to tackle the menace of terrorism

1446. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has proposed to set up a globe panel of countries affected by terrorism for sharing and devising methods to tackle the menace as reported in 'The Times of India' dated the 28th January, 2003; and

(b) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Interpol Wing, CBI, New Delhi held an interaction with various Police Liaison Officers and other Consular Officers posted in New Delhi on 24.1.2003. The representatives from 18 countries participated in the deliberations for sharing of information and technology to enhance police cooperation for tackling terrorism, cyber crime and drug trafficking etc. In this meeting, the suggestion, made during the 71st Interpol General Assembly Session held at Cameroon, to set up a committee of 10 to 15 countries most affected by terrorism, was reiterated.

Discussions held during Home Minister's visit to Thailand and Singapore

1447. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit in January, 2003 to Thailand and Singapore, he had discussed matters relating to strengthening of the global fight against terrorism with the leaders of the two nations;

(b) if so, whether any other issues were discussed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, accompanied by an official delegation (Union Home Secretary, OSD to Dy. P.M., PS to Dy. P.M., JS(SEA), MEA, Director (PP), (MHA) visited Thailand and held discussions with the authorities in Thailand on 31st January and 1st February, 2003.

During the visit, the Deputy Prime Minister of India called on H.E. Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, and held a plenary meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Wissanu Krea-Ngam. Mr. Wan Muhamad Noor Matha, Minister of Interior and Mr. Purachai Piumsomboon, Minister of Justice, called on the DPM.

A full and detailed review of bilateral relations was conducted including views on security cooperation, especially with respect to terrorist activities that threaten the stability of the region. It was agreed that the meeting of the Thailand-India Joint Working Group on Security would take place expeditiously. Both sides also agreed to conclude a bilateral Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, an Agreement on transfer of convicted prisoners, and MoU on narcotic control. Measures to diversify and enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of Bio Technology, Space Applications, Civil Aviation, Tourism and Information Technology were also discussed.

From Thailand, the delegation visited Singapore on 2nd February, 2003. During the stay at Singapore from 2nd February, 2003 to 5th February, 2003, Dy. P.M. held discussions with the President Mr. S.R. Nathan, the Prime Minister Mr. Gohchoktong, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, the Home Affairs Minister Mr.Wongkanseng and the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. George Yong-Boon Yeo.

The Deputy Prime Minister delivered a lecture on "New Approaches to Security and Development" at the Institute of South East Asian Studies, Singapore on 4th February, 2003. In his lecture, The DPM emphasized the inter-dependence between security and development and stressed upon the need for regional and global cooperation to combat terrorism. He also touched upon the problem of the Global Web of Terrorism extending to South East Asia and the problems relating to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Dy. P.M. also held detailed discussions with Singapore on issues relating to Indo-Singapore Bilateral Cooperation, Trade and Industry, Science and Technology besides security issues.